

[illegible]

Wilderness Characteristics Inventory (Public)

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier CDCA 1342-1 Acreage 13,491

(If the inventory area consists of subunits, list the acreage of each and evaluate separately).

In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

**(1) Is the area of sufficient size? (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below),**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X \_\_\_\_\_

Note: If "No is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "N/A" for the remaining questions below.

Description (describe the boundaries of the area—wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

The area is bounded on the south by Interstate 10; on the west, by Dillon Road; on the north, by the Colorado River Aqueduct road; and, on the east, by the Cottonwood Springs Road. Because of the checkerboard ownership pattern, this area still does not contain 5,000 contiguous acres of Public Land and is not of sufficient size as the lands contain Private and Public ownership. Man-made improvements on the Private Lands have adversely affected the primeval character and influence of the landscape.

**(2) Does the area appear to be natural?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X \_\_\_\_\_

Note: If "No is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "N/A" for the remaining questions below.

Description (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

**(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remaining is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X \_\_\_\_\_

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

**(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remaining is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A X \_\_\_\_\_

Note: If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "N/A" for question 5.

Description (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

N/A   X  

Description:

(Add description here)

### Summary of Analysis\*

Area Unique Identifier: CDCA 1342-1

#### Summary

Because of the checkerboard ownership pattern, this area still does not contain 5,000 contiguous acres of Public Land and is not of sufficient size as the lands contain Private and Public ownership. Man-made improvements on the Private Lands have adversely affected the primeval character and influence of the landscape. This unit does not meet the size requirements of wilderness characteristics.

#### Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  
☐ Yes ☒ No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No

#### Check one:

☐ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC)

☒ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

#### Prepared by (team members):

John Johnson, ECFO - Environmental Protection Specialist, 6/10/2014

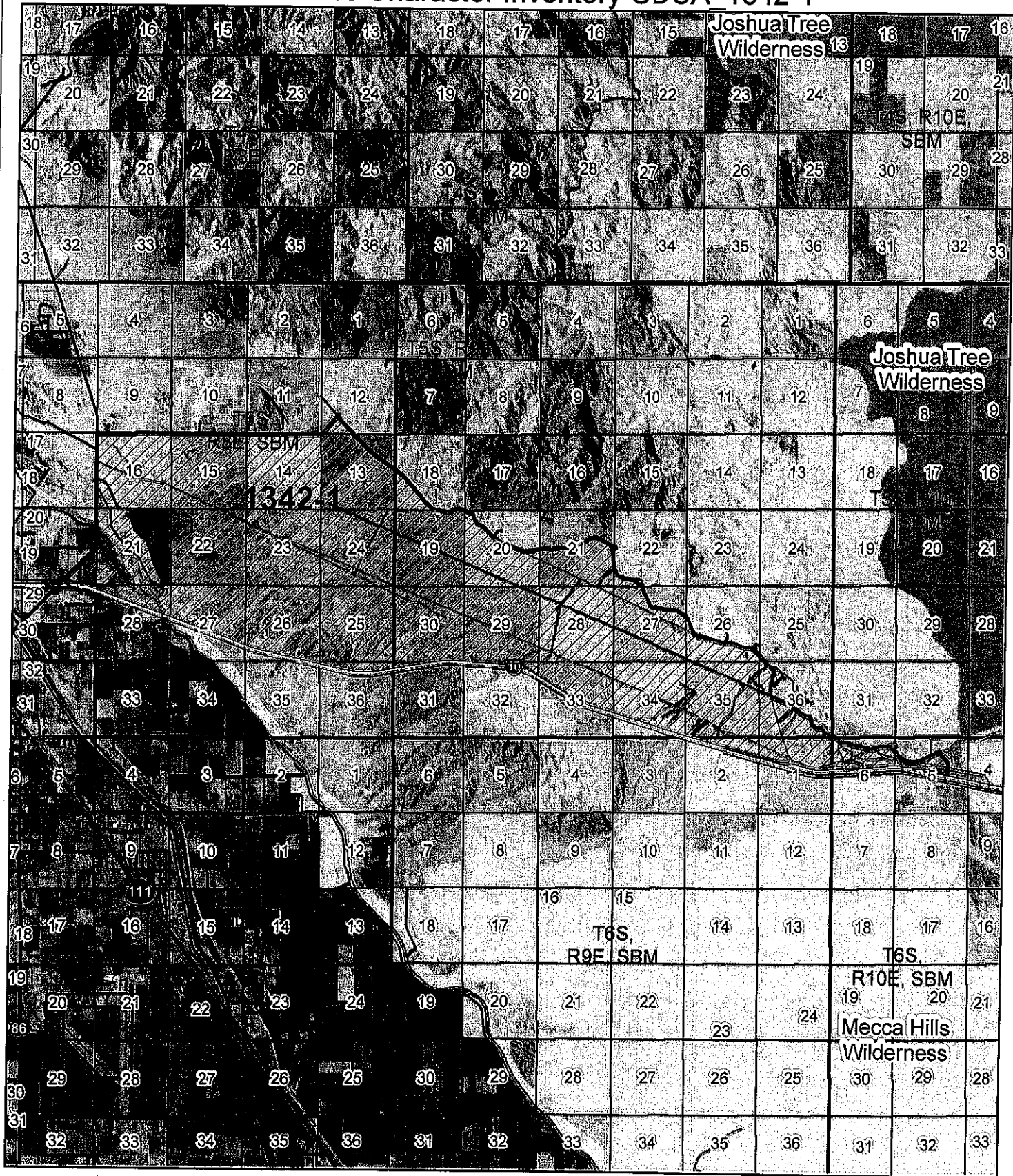
#### Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: John R. Johnson Title: Field Manager

Date: 2/9/16

\*This form documents information that constitutes and inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR or 1610.5-3

# Wilderness Character Inventory CDCA 1342-1



**Legend**

Wilderness Inventory Units

Federal Wilderness Surface Management

Managing Agency

Bureau of Land Management

US Forest Service

National Park Service

US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Government Lands**

**AGENCY**

Bureau of Land Management

Forest Service

National Park Service

Fish and Wildlife Service

Bureau of Reclamation

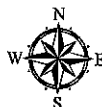
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Department of Defense

Other Federal

State

Local Government



0 1.5 3 Miles

1:111,098

U.S. Department of the Interior

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office

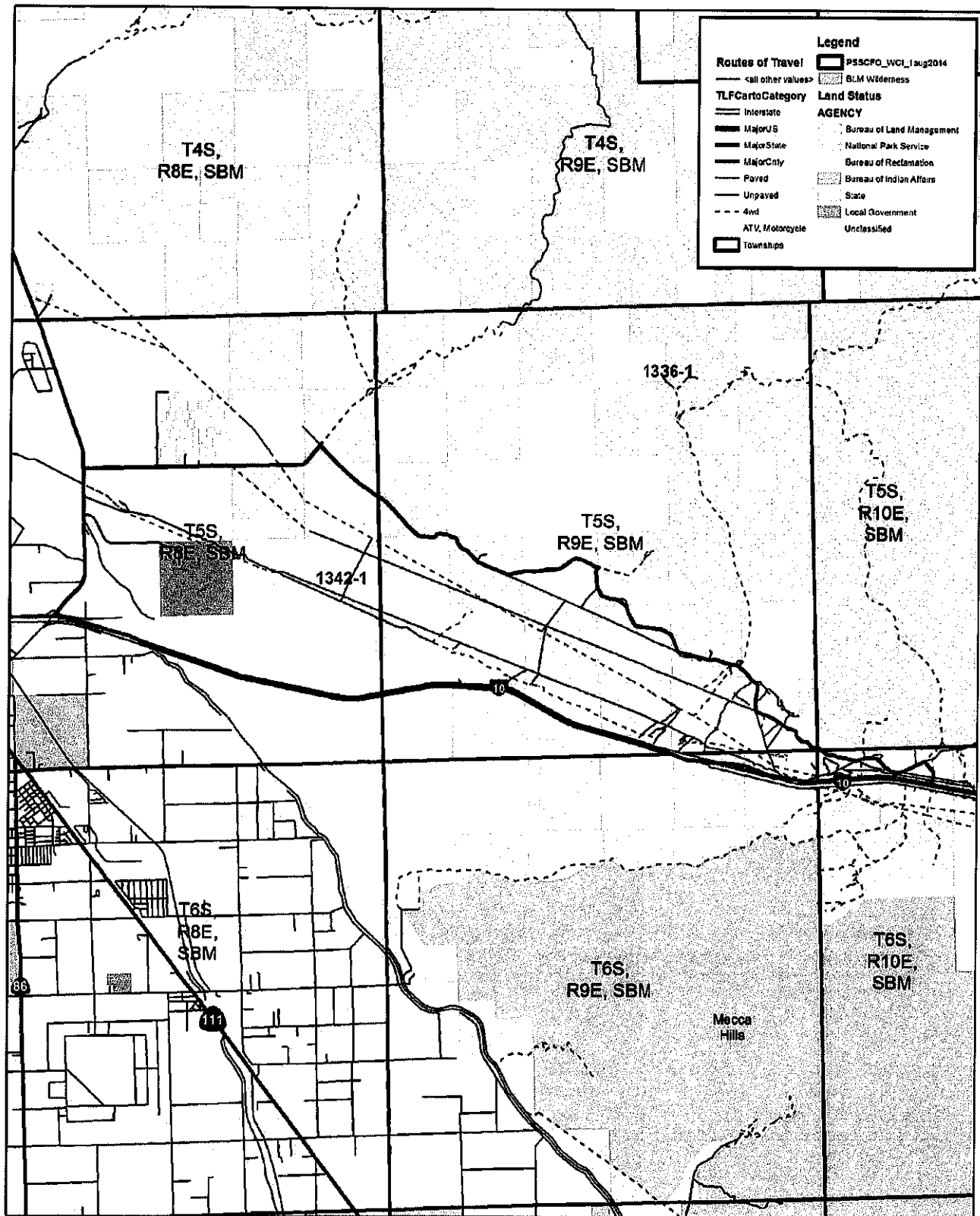
Palm Springs, California

(760) 833-7100

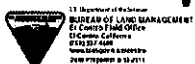
[www.blm.gov/palmsprings](http://www.blm.gov/palmsprings)

Date Prepared: 1/21/2016

Project: CDCA\_1342-1



## Wilderness Character Inventory - CDCA\_1342-1



0 3 6 Miles



#### IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The large area of contiguous public land has generally retained its primeval character and influence, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable. The rugged terrain has limited access into the area, thereby protecting the site and allowing it to maintain its natural character. The public lands in the checkerboard pattern of ownership are included in the Wilderness Study Area. After consultation with California Department of Fish and Game, it was determined that such designation would be compatible with management of their lands.

#### V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The rugged mountain terrain, in addition to the dense and diverse vegetation patterns, combine to produce numerous areas of isolation. The screening effect of these natural barriers insures outstanding opportunities for solitude. The area is diverse enough to provide a wide variety of primitive-type activities.

#### VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were overwhelming in saying this area is one of the most pristine and potentially spectacular wilderness areas in the desert. These comments will need to be evaluated in the study phase as to whether an enlarged area should be considered.

#### AREA 341A

##### I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

Located in the Santa Rosa Mountains the site is surrounded by Anza Borrego Desert State Park on its east, west and south sides. Its northern border is defined by Coyote Canyon Road which provides access into the State Park and supports ranching activities along its border.

##### II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public land nor is it of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

##### III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

All public comments received dealt with geothermal potential, which is not an inventory consideration.

#### AREA 342

##### I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded on the south by Interstate 10; on the west, by the Dillon Road; on the north, by the Colorado River Aqueduct road; and, on the east, by the Cottonwood Springs Road.

##### II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Because of the checkerboard land pattern this area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands and is not of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. Furthermore, man-made improvements on privately-owned lands have adversely affected the primeval character and influence of the landscape.

##### III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The few comments received were in agreement with the findings that the area should be dropped from further wilderness study.